

**AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION  
ALPENA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between the County of Alpena as represented by the Judges 26<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and Alpena County Probate Court, all parties of the first part, hereafter referred to as “the Courts” or “the County,” and the law firm of Lamble & Bayot, PLLC, and William A. Pfeifer of the law firm of Isackson, Wallace & Pfeifer, P.C., all parties of the second part, jointly and severally, hereafter referred to as the “Contract Provider.”

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to contract for the representation of persons requiring legal representation as required by law in the Circuit and Probate Courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contract Provider has proposed to provide such representation pursuant to the County’s request for same; and

**WHEREAS**, the County having determined that the Contract Provider is able to provide acceptable representation of the persons described above,

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants expressed herein, the parties agree as follows:

**SCOPE**

- A. During the term of this Agreement the Contract Provider agrees to provide representation for all such persons whom the Provider is appointed to represent by the Courts as required by law, including, but not limited to, appearances at the following proceedings in the Family Division of the Circuit Court and Probate Courts: motions; hearings; trials; pleas; delinquency and juvenile proceedings; designation proceedings; waiver proceedings; paternity proceedings; probation violation proceedings; neglect and abuse petitions; representation of minors in abuse and neglect cases by being appointed guardian ad litem for those minors in the aforesaid proceedings; abuse/neglect appeals and mediation as ordered by the court, personal protection order hearings; mental illness, guardianship, legal incapacity, and conservatorship proceedings; and Friend of the Court contempt hearings. Specifically exempt are review hearings for Juveniles, and review hearings for parents in neglect and abuse cases, unless specifically appointed by the Court. Further the contract provider shall be responsible for handling 2 neglect/abuse appeals without any further remuneration. Any additional appeals beyond 2 requires mutual agreement of the parties and at a rate of compensation to be mutually agreed upon.
- B. The Courts shall determine the people entitled to representation under this Agreement by screening conducted by Court personnel. The Contract Provider shall be obligated to accept all cases covered by this Agreement at the time of receiving notice from the

Court Administrator regarding eligibility for representation. Any monies collected by the Courts or the County from partially indigent persons receiving services by the Contract Provider under the terms of this Agreement remain the property of the County or Courts.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Contract Provider shall be responsible for the following:

- A. Contract with attorneys to perform the normal representation of eligible persons coming before the Courts as described above;
- B. Assure that all attorneys are competent to perform their required duties;
- C. Assure that all participating attorneys are members in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan;
- D. Monitor and disperse appropriate payments to the participating attorneys or assigns;
- E. Provide competent and efficient legal representation of the person to whom they are appointed;
- F. Assure that all participating attorneys complete all duties in accordance with the Court Rules of the State of Michigan and the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- G. Assure that all participating attorneys are punctual for all Court appearances.
- H. The duties and responsibilities described in this Contract are separate and distinct from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission policies and standards, as approved by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

### **TERM**

The term of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the date of signature by the parties notwithstanding. At the termination of this Agreement, the Contract Provider shall provide representation to all individuals for whom the Provider has filed an appearance and shall conclude representation upon the client's sentence or dismissal.

### **EARLY TERMINATION**

This Agreement may be terminated, prior to its expiration, with or without cause by either party. Notice of early termination must be made with not less than 60 days written notice delivered by

registered or certified mail or in person to the other party. Notice to the County shall be delivered to the Honorable, Chief Judge of the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court with courtesy copies provided to the Alpena County Probate Judge and the Chairman of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners. Notice to the Contract Provider shall be delivered to Michael Lamble or William Pfeifer. If notice is delivered by mail, it shall be deemed received upon acknowledgment of receipt of the mail by addressee. In the event of termination, the Contract Provider shall be responsible to transfer representation of existing clients on open cases to whomever the County contracts with for the provision of services thereafter. Any representation after the date of termination of this Agreement shall be without additional compensation.

### **PERSONNEL**

The Contract Provider shall provide the professional services to fulfill its obligations for the provision of legal representation of eligible persons under the terms of this Agreement. The Contract Provider shall provide qualified attorneys who are members in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan as may be needed to perform the functions stated herein.

In cases wherein the Contract Provider cannot represent an eligible person for any reason, the Contract Provider shall provide a qualified attorney as may be needed to perform the functions required herein, and the Contract Provider shall be responsible for remuneration of that attorney. Should the Contract Provider find continued difficulty in securing alternate counsel in personal conflict cases, it shall be the right and the discretion of the Circuit Court to secure such additional counsel as needed. Appropriate payment for this additional counsel shall be determined by the Circuit Court. This amount shall be subtracted from the Contract Provider's compensation. The Judges of the Circuit and Probate Courts retain the right to remove an attorney appointed under this provision from representing persons pursuant to this Agreement at any time. It is within the professional discretion of the Contract Provider attorneys to determine, pursuant to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, whether a conflict of interest exists.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

It is understood by the parties that the Contract Provider may contract with other attorneys to provide services under this Agreement as expressly contemplated herein.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT**

The Contract Provider or attorneys retained by the Contract Provider shall provide or cause to be provided the following at no additional cost to the County:

- A. All general administrative services including all administrative scheduling of attorneys' court appearances needed to insure the orderly and timely provision of the legal services contemplated herein;

- B. Office facilities adequate to the needs of the named attorneys or assigns while performing all legal services hereunder;
- C. All necessary secretarial and clerical assistance;
- D. All necessary stationary, office supplies, and office equipment including but not limited to duplicating equipment, dictating equipment, computers, facsimile machines, typewriters, and telephones;
- E. All transportation for the Contract Provider or assigns necessary for the provision of the legal services contemplated herein.
- F. The collection, retention, and communication of all statistical records regarding the Contract Provider's duties set forth in Scope, paragraph A, of this Agreement as may be required by the Supreme Court Administrator's Office.

### COMPENSATION

In consideration of all the services and all incidental costs, expenses and material provided by the Contract Provider under the terms of this Agreement and as accepted elsewhere herein, the County agrees to pay the Contract Provider the sum of \$ 8,333.33 per month for a term of eleven months and the sum of \$ 8,333.37 for a term of one month. Said payments are to be made on the fifteenth day of each month that this Agreement remains in effect.

In addition, the County shall pay, upon motion and prior Court approval, the following expenses:

- A. Expert witness fees and costs;
- B. Other witness fees and costs as required by law;
- C. Fees and costs associated with polygraph examinations;
- D. Fees and costs associated with psychiatric examinations;
- E. Transcript fees and costs.

The Contract Provider agrees that the above-listed expenses shall be considered extraordinary and not routine and shall be granted only upon a showing of unusual circumstances by the Contract Provider and as approved by the Court. No other payments other than those stated herein shall be made without specific, prior approval by the Courts.

**Notwithstanding any language that may be, or appear to be, to the contrary, the compensation specifically provided herein is deemed to be the entire amount to be paid by parties of the first part to parties of the second part as attorney and personnel fees for representation in any and all Courts.**

**INSURANCE**

Each attorney that is a member of the Contract Provider shall maintain professional liability insurance of at least \$100,000.00/\$300,000.00 to insure against any and all liability arising through the acts of the attorneys under this Agreement. The Contract Provider shall append to its policies that the County shall receive notice 30 days prior to any cancellation of said insurance policies.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**

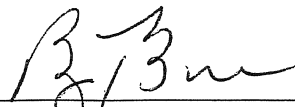
It is understood and agreed by the parties that:

- A. Any alterations, amendments, deletions, or waivers of the provisions of this Agreement shall be valid only when reduced to writing and duly signed by the parties or appointed representatives thereof;
- B. No claim for services furnished by the Contract Provider not specifically provided for in this Agreement will be honored by the County or Courts unless such service has been specifically ordered by the Court(s) and such service, as ordered, is clearly outside the scope of the services specified by the terms of this Agreement;
- C. That the Contract Provider herein acts as an independent contractor and neither its members nor its employees acquire any tenure nor any rights or benefits from the Courts or the County by way of Worker's Compensation, nor any benefits under the Courts' or the County's personnel programs covering medical and hospital care, sick pay, vacation pay, or severance pay;
- D. It is understood that the Contract Provider, collectively or individually, shall not be deemed a governmental or quasi-governmental agency under this Agreement.

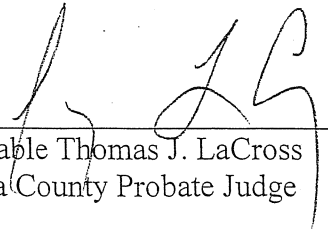
**ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement of the parties is contained herein and that this Agreement supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the parties related hereto and the subject matter hereof.

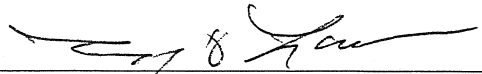
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands as of the dates written below:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Benjamin T. Bolser, Chief Judge  
26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court

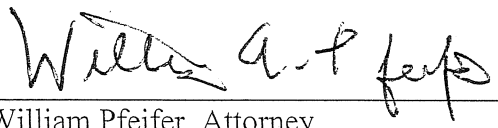
Dated: 1/31/2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Thomas J. LaCross  
Alpena County Probate Judge

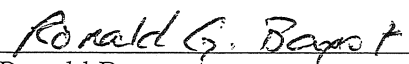
Dated: 2/4/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Lamble, Attorney  
Contract Provider

Dated: 1/30/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Pfeifer, Attorney  
Contract Provider

Dated: 1/30/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Bayot, Attorney  
Contract Provider

Dated: 1-30-20